

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 240

By Person

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Frank Bluestein of Germantown High School upon his receipt of the American Teacher Award in Performing Arts.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary professionals who have dedicated their talents and their energies to developing and nurturing this state's most precious resource: our children; and

WHEREAS, E. Frank Bluestein, Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at Germantown High School, is most assuredly one such superlative educator deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bluestein was recently honored by his receipt of the Walt Disney Company and McDonald's American Teacher Award in the Performing Arts category; and

WHEREAS, of the more than 1,500 American teachers nominated in twelve categories, Mr. Bluestein was one of only thirty-six teachers nationwide to receive this prestigious award which acknowledges "the tremendous contributions that these teachers are making to enrich the lives of our country's students"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bluestein truly personifies the spirit of the American Teacher Awards by inspiring all of us to imagine a better future and creating a better world by encouraging excellence in his students; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Shelby County have long recognized and appreciated Mr. Bluestein's excellence as an educator and role model for young people: he has been named

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to *Memphis Magazine's* Who's Who in Memphis poll, has been presented a community service award for his accomplishments in education by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and received the Shelby County Schools' outstanding Service Award in 1989; and

WHEREAS, he was deservedly honored as Tennessee's Teacher of the Year in 1994, and he is a distinguished past honoree of the American Theatre Association's John C. Banner Award, a national award given to one secondary school teacher whose theatre program is judged most exemplary for the year; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his meritorious service as Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at Germantown High School, Mr. Bluestein serves adroitly as the Video Services Coordinator for Shelby County Schools; and

WHEREAS, he is the founder and director of the school's theatre, the critically acclaimed and immensely popular Poplar Pike Playhouse, and also serves with distinction as executive producer for the school's two million dollar educational television facility; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart patron of the arts and a nationally recognized expert in arts education, Mr. Bluestein has served astutely as an arts advisory panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, the College Board Arts Advisory Committee, the Tennessee Arts Commission, the Council of Chief School Officers and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; he is also a former vice-president of the Tennessee Theatre Association; and

WHEREAS, each summer, he unselfishly donates his time and considerable talents to supervise the theatre division of the Tennessee Arts Academy, a statewide teacher training institute; and

WHEREAS, he has also served with acumen as a director of shows at Opryland USA, and he is a highly respected and much sought after speaker and writer on arts-related issues; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments and awards aside, Mr. Bluestein is most appreciative of the love, companionship and support he receives from his wife Brenda, who

often works side-by-side with her husband in preparation for the Poplar Pike Playhouse's productions; and

WHEREAS, Frank Bluestein should be saluted for his generous dedication to the arts and arts education and the positive impact he makes on his students' lives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Frank Bluestein of Germantown High School upon his receipt of the Walt Disney Company and McDonald's American Teacher Award in Performing Arts; commend his superlative career as an educator and his ongoing commitment to the arts as an integral part of the complete curriculum; and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.